

Jesus, My Good Shepherd

A 5 Day Devotional Bible Study for Children

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The Good Shepherd

Key Verse: "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep." John 10:11

Today's Devotional

Have you ever seen a shepherd on TV or in a picture book? A shepherd is someone whose whole job is to take care of sheep. They watch over them, lead them to good grass and fresh water, and protect them from anything that might try to hurt them. Shepherds love their sheep so much that they stay with them all day and all night long!

Jesus calls Himself the Good Shepherd, and that is really good news for us! Just like a shepherd cares for every single sheep, Jesus cares for every single one of us. He watches over you when you're at school, when you're playing, when you're sleeping, and even when you're having a hard day. There is never a moment when Jesus stops caring about you.

The word *good* here means more than just "nice." It means Jesus is the *best* shepherd, the perfect one. He doesn't walk away when things get tough. He loves us so much that He gave everything for us. That's the kind of shepherd He is!



Reflection Questions

- 🐏 What does a shepherd do for sheep?
- 🐏 How does Jesus take care of you like a shepherd?
- 🐏 Can you think of a time this week when you felt like Jesus was watching over you?

Today's Prayer

Dear Jesus, thank You for being my Good Shepherd. Thank You for loving me and taking care of me every single day. Help me to trust You and follow You wherever You lead. In Jesus' name, amen.

Knowing His Voice

Key Verse: "My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me." John 10:27

Today's Devotional

Think about the last time you were in a really crowded place, maybe a busy restaurant, a fair, or even Disney World! There were probably lots of people talking and moving all around you. It can feel a little overwhelming, right? But here's something amazing: even in the middle of all that noise and all those people, you can recognize the voice of your mom or your dad calling for you. You just *know* it. That voice is special to you because you've heard it your whole life, it is the voice of someone who loves you!

Sheep are the same way. When a shepherd calls his sheep, they don't get confused by all the other sounds around them. They know their shepherd's voice, and they follow *him*. Jesus says we are like those sheep. We can learn to recognize His voice too!

So how do we learn what Jesus' voice sounds like? We listen to the Bible! When we read God's Word, we get to know what Jesus says and how He speaks to us. Coming to church, praying, and reading our Bibles are all ways we tune our hearts to hear Him more clearly. The more time we spend with Jesus, the easier it is to hear Him when He calls.



Reflection Questions

- 🎧 How do you recognize someone's voice even in a noisy crowd?
- 🎧 What are some ways we can "hear" what Jesus says to us?
- 🎧 How can you make more time this week to listen to Jesus?

Today's Prayer

Dear Jesus, help me to know Your voice above all the noise around me. Teach me to listen when You speak through Your Word and through the people who love me. I want to follow You! In Jesus' name, amen.

He Calls You by Name

Key Verse: "He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out." – John 10:3b

Today's Devotional

Did you know that Jesus knows your name? Not just as one person in a big crowd, but *your* name, the name your family calls you. He knows everything about you, including your favorite color, the things that make you laugh, the things that make you cry, and every single thing that happens in your day. That might feel hard to believe because there are so many people in the whole world, but Jesus is not like us. He has room in His heart for every single person, and He knows each one by name.

In Bible times, a shepherd would give names to his sheep, and those sheep would come running when the shepherd called out their specific name. Can you imagine? Out of a whole flock of sheep, each one knew its own name and knew who was calling!

When Jesus calls your name, it means you belong to Him. You are not forgotten. You are not invisible. You are known and loved by the Creator of the whole universe. That is such a big, wonderful, amazing truth! Whenever you feel lonely or unseen, remember, Jesus knows your name, and He is calling out to you right now with love.



📖 Reflection Questions

- ✨ How does it feel when someone calls you by your name?
- ✨ What does it mean that Jesus knows YOUR name?
- ✨ Is there a time you felt lonely or forgotten? How does today's verse help?

✅ Today's Prayer

Dear Jesus, thank You that You know my name and You know everything about me. Thank You that I am never forgotten or invisible to You. Help me to remember that I belong to You. In Jesus' name, amen.

Following the Shepherd

Key Verse: "When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice." – John 10:4

Today's Devotional

Here is something really important about how a shepherd leads his sheep: he goes *ahead* of them. He doesn't push them from behind, he walks out in front, and the sheep follow because they trust him. They've seen him lead them to good places before. They know he won't take them somewhere dangerous. So when the shepherd moves, the sheep move with him, confident that wherever he's going, it's going to be okay.

Jesus leads us the same way! He goes ahead of us into our days, our weeks, and our future. When we start a new school year, Jesus is already there. When something scary happens, Jesus has already seen it coming and He is ready to help us through it. We never have to walk into anything alone, because our Good Shepherd always goes before us.

Following Jesus means making choices that line up with what He says in the Bible. It means being kind even when it's hard, telling the truth even when it's scary, and choosing to do what's right even when nobody's watching. When we do those things, we are following our Shepherd, and that is always the very best path to be on! The more we practice following Him in small things, the easier it gets to trust Him with the big things too.



Reflection Questions

- 👣 What does it mean that Jesus "goes ahead" of us?
- 👣 What is one way you can follow Jesus at home? At school?
- 👣 Is there something coming up that feels scary? How can you trust Jesus to lead you?

Today's Prayer

Dear Jesus, thank You for going ahead of me in everything. Help me to follow You bravely and to trust that wherever You lead is the right way. Give me courage to follow You even when it's hard. In Jesus' name, amen.

Safe in His Care

Key Verse: "I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand." – John 10:28

Today's Devotional

We have made it to Day 5, the last day of our devotional, and we are ending with the most wonderful truth of all: you are safe in Jesus' hands. These are not just any hands. These are the hands that created the stars and the oceans and every beautiful thing in the whole world. And Jesus says that *you*, yes, you, are held safe in those very hands. Nobody can pull you out. Nobody can take you away. You are His, and He holds on tight!

This week we learned that Jesus is our Good Shepherd. We learned that He cares for us more than we can imagine, that He knows our names, that His voice is one we can learn to recognize, and that He goes ahead of us to lead the way. Now we get to rest in this final beautiful promise: *we are eternally safe with Him.*

That doesn't mean life will always be easy or that nothing will ever be hard. But it *does* mean that no matter what happens, Jesus never lets go of us. When we feel scared, we can remember His hands. When we feel lost, we can listen for His voice. When we feel alone, we can know He calls us by name. Our Good Shepherd is with us, today, tomorrow, and forever. And that is the **best** news in the whole wide world!



📖 Reflection Questions

- 👐 What does it mean to be held in Jesus' hands?
- 👐 Which day this week was your favorite – and why?
- 👐 How will knowing Jesus is your Good Shepherd change how you live this week?

✅ Today's Prayer

Dear Jesus, thank You that I am safe in Your hands forever. Thank You for being my Good Shepherd – for knowing my name, for leading me, and for never letting me go. I love You, Jesus. In Your name, amen.